

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 3, 4, 5, 6, and 8, as follows:

1. (Original) A permanently fireproof flame guard having a flow cross section (2) that terminates a conduit, in which there is a flame guard insert having a large number of passage gaps ensuring that it is permanently fireproof, characterized in that, within the flow cross section (2), at least one concentric annular section (5) is formed so as to be solid without the passage gaps, around which annular sections (4) having the passage gaps are formed.
2. (Original) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1, characterized in that the cross-sectional area of the flame guard insert (4, 5) with the passage gaps is greater than the cross-sectional area without passage gaps.
3. (Currently Amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 1 or 2, characterized in that a centrally arranged core is provided as a concentric section (11).
4. (Currently Amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~, claim 1, characterized in that the concentric section (5, 11) is formed of a highly thermally conductive material.
5. (Currently Amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~, claim 1, characterized in that, within the flow cross section (2), a plurality of annular sections are provided as concentric sections (5), which are in each case followed in the radial direction by flame guard arrangements (4) with passage gaps.
6. (Currently Amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~, claim 1, characterized in that the concentric section (5, 11) is formed from a smooth metal strip (42) wound spirally closely on itself.

7. (Original) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in claim 6, characterized in that the passage gaps of the flow cross section (2) are formed by a corrugated metal strip (41) wound together spirally with a smooth metal strip (42).

8. (Currently Amended) The permanently fireproof flame guard as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~, claim 1, characterized in that the flow cross section 92) has an annular form.